

Subject: Mayor Garcetti Breaks Ground on Venice Blvd
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Mayor Garcetti joins Councilmember Bonin, and city and community leaders to break ground on four new pedestrian crossings.

MAYOR GARCETTI'S 'GREAT STREETS' INITIATIVE DELIVERING PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS ON VENICE BOULEVARD



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A vibrant section of Venice Boulevard is getting a series of pedestrian safety improvements thanks to Mayor Eric Garcetti's Great Streets initiative — bringing new life to a Mar Vista neighborhood where Angelenos can gather to shop, dine, and enjoy a popular Sunday farmers' market.

Mayor Garcetti joined Councilmember Mike Bonin, and city and community leaders today to break ground on improvements that include new signalized and high-visibility crosswalks, along with pedestrian head starts — creating a safer and more accessible street.

"Our main streets are much more than roadways — they're places that bring people together and build community in neighborhoods across Los Angeles," said Mayor Garcetti. "Venice Boulevard does that for the people of Mar Vista, and we'll preserve that for generations to come by making it safer to walk, drive, bike, and use mass transit."

Once complete, the improvements will include four new signalized pedestrian crossings at Mountain View Avenue, Ocean View Avenue, Boise Street and Meier Street. There will also be pedestrian head starts at nine Venice Boulevard intersections — including Beethoven Street, Meier Street, Wade Street, Boise Avenue, Centinela Avenue, Ocean View Avenue, Grand View Avenue, Mountain View Avenue, and Inglewood Boulevard, and high-visibility crosswalks along Venice Boulevard."

Location of four new pedestrian signals and upgrades at existing signals.

"This is a huge step in our transformation of Venice Boulevard from a freeway through Mar Vista into Mar Vista's Main Street," said Councilmember Mike Bonin. "Residents and merchants alike are clamoring to make downtown Mar Vista a local gathering place where people can shop at small businesses, eat at great restaurants and enjoy their neighborhood. That transformation is underway and there is a new spirit in Mar Vista. The new pedestrian crossings will make it safer and easier for everyone to cross the street and enjoy both sides of Venice Boulevard."

Pedestrian safety enhancements on the Venice Boulevard Great Street will help the City meet the Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic-related fatalities by 2025.

"Venice Boulevard is the heart of Mar Vista. Giving people a safe way to connect north to south creates a stronger, safer street and neighborhood," said Seleta Reynolds, LADOT General Manager. "We know that something as simple as a protected crossing can save lives and add to the vibrant placemaking already underway."

Improving L.A.'s streets is central to Mayor Garcetti's Back-to-Basics agenda. The City has paved a record 2,400 lane miles in each of fiscal years 2014-15 and 2015-2016, for a record total of close to 8,500 lane miles to date during this administration. The turnaround time to complete a pothole repair, during normal weather conditions, is down from a week to an average of less than three working days.

The Venice Boulevard Great Streets project is a partnership between Mayor Garcetti and Councilmember Bonin with support from the City of Los Angeles' Department of Transportation, Bureau of Engineering, and Bureau of Street Services.

About the Great Streets Initiative

Mayor Eric Garcetti launched the Great Streets Initiative in October 2013 to transform streets across the city into more vibrant public spaces. A Great Street is a street that serves as the center of a neighborhood, where people can walk, meet, learn, and play on a daily basis. The Great Streets Initiative's goals include improving safety and access, increasing economic activity, and encouraging

community engagement. For more information, including a full list of Great Streets corridors and programs, visit www.LAGreatStreets.org.

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